

Voices in Motion

What's happening? We are. The Brampton Historical Society is moving and shaking and everyone is joining in on the action. When we listen and look around, we take in events that ring with BHS resonance. President Peter outlines plans and upcoming endeavours on the next page. Around us, other groups interested in heritage and history work with us co-operatively to push forward compelling issues while other historical societies swap ideas through our newsletter exchanges.

Members who attend meetings catch the passion of our dynamic speakers and exchange personal views and memories. We appreciate our speakers who take the time to write excerpts of their talks for Buffy's Corner readers.

In this issue, our February speaker, Robert Saunders, President of Community Heritage Ontario (the association of LACAC's across the province) gives us an historical perspective on heritage in Ontario. Our every-issue voice at Buffy's Corner, Fred Kee, an all-time favourite is back again.

Then there are the voices within the BHS. The friendly reminders from our telephoners, Kay Drew and Joan Hutchins bring about good attendance at our monthly events. While behind the scenes, "Mr. Media", Al Brooks quietly attends to the sound equipment, records speakers and helps set up/take down props for presentations. Downtown Tour Guide 'Stompin' Steve Collie draws a crowd and attracts new members. Action springboards from our vocally enlightening board meetings. The internal list goes on and on, proving once again that the squeaky wheel gets the ball rolling, words speak as loud as actions and still waters can or cannot run deep.

Time for Buffy and Bunny to go jump in the lake. See you in September.



Historic Bovaird House brewed treats in Mossie's Tea Room on Heritage Day.

Buffy's Corner

The official newsletter of the Brampton Historical Society
Conserve, Educate and Celebrate Brampton's History
Buffy's Corners, the original name of Brampton, was the site of the respectable tavern owned by William Buffy, considered to be the father of Brampton. His pioneer spirit (pun intended) lives on in the name of our journal. History "buffs" are invited into The Corner to share their stories and comments.

Volume 4 Number 2 June 2002

In This Issue:

Historic Preservation in Ontario
Westervelts Corners

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Brampton Hysterical Society Joke-of-the-Month

Just remember this summer
when you are swimming in the creek
and an eel bites you on the cheek
that's ... a moray!

Buffy's Corner, published 4 times per year, is free to BHS members (see back page for membership details)
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All Aboard!

Albert Goodman
Lynda Haapala
Ben and Marjorie Madill
Gay Peppin
Anne and Harley Phillips
Libby Senior

Membership nearly
striking 100!



THE PREZ SEZ

Peter Murphy

Spring is upon us, finally. The season of growth and renewal and it is entirely in order that the BHS should reflect these seasonal characteristics.

Our membership continues to grow at a modest rate. The financial picture is secure with savings set up in the form of \$8,000 worth of GICs, earmarked for future restoration or conservation projects.

We maintain our role in the forefront of the Doors Open Brampton project scheduled for September 21 and 22. 19 sites have been confirmed; the first meeting of site representatives has been scheduled for May 9. In addition the BHS will apply for another Trillium Foundation grant, this time to support the marketing and promotion of Doors Open Brampton.

Vice President Michael Avis' efforts have given us a voice on the Brampton Sesquicentennial Committee, specifically as liaison to the Educational Historical Reference Working Group. A major project with this group is "to establish an interpretative centre focussed on Brampton's history, physical geography and socio-economic attributes and characteristics". Our distinguished member Rowena Cooper has been retained by the Committee to conduct research relating to Brampton's first 150 years.

While the Peel Heritage Complex contains a wealth of archival material, we have decided that the eve of Brampton's 150th Anniversary would be a good time to scour the attics and basements of the community for more good "stuff". Diane Kuster, Registrar of the Peel Heritage Complex, supports this initiative. More on this will soon be forthcoming from her office.

The city-owned CPR Station, dismantled and stored on Bob Crawford's Norval property, is ever-present on the monthly executive agenda under the rubric "Save Our Station". It is too early to say if there is light at the end of the tunnel. (Oops, bad pun) Messrs. Clarkson and Avis have arranged a meeting with interested parties to examine options for the 1902 station.

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CITY TAKES MAJOR STEP FORWARD

Michael Avis, Vice President & Heritage Liaison

The City is commended for recently allotting funds for hiring a full-time heritage co-ordinator. At long last, there is an acknowledgement of the importance of heritage and the task to preserve and promote historically significant buildings and areas. A City staff person whose time will be dedicated exclusively to heritage matters can only have a positive impact on the cultural growth and well-being of the City.

Looking at the size of Brampton and potential for future growth, the healthy state of City coffers will enable us to offer an attractive and competitive salary to attract a skilled and experienced professional. With issues such as Alder Lea and the CPR station plus other heritage-related initiatives, we hope that the selection and hiring process is implemented without delay.

In another piece of good news, this time from the provincial level, we were pleased to learn that, prior to the recent changes at Queen's Park, former Finance Minister Jim Flaherty, and Tom Hudak, Culture & Recreation Minister, announced new tax incentives to encourage and promote preservation of heritage buildings. This initiative will allow municipalities to offer tax relief, under certain conditions, to owners of heritage properties. Under an amendment to the Municipal Act, municipalities will be in a position to pass bylaws offering owners of heritage properties a tax reduction of between 10% to 40%. The cost of this long overdue innovative programme will be shared: the province will cover the education portion with the municipality funding their portion of the tax reduction.

At BHS, we fully endorse the Brampton Heritage Board's (LACAC) initiative in asking the Commissioner of Finance and City Treasurer to study this important and much needed programme and provide City Council with a report on the impact of adopting such a tax relief plan for Brampton heritage property owners. ***The BHS will be watching this carefully.***

Finally, a pat on the back to David Somers and all his staff for putting together this year's Heritage Day at the Peel Heritage Complex on February 17. The annual event ties in with the provincially designated "Heritage Week". A bright late-winter day proved ideal for welcoming visitors to the Complex. This year's event saw attendance far exceeding previous years.

The Brampton Historical Society was again pleased to be represented with many other heritage/historical groups and pioneer craftspeople. Many interested people stopped by the BHS exhibit featuring the photographic step by step restoration process of the 1857 Bristow, Fitzgerald Map of the Town of Brampton.

Continued on Page 9

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT THE BHS?

February 17 saw yet another successful Heritage Day at the Peel Heritage Complex



BHS member Diana Tracey helped with Mossie's Tea Room.



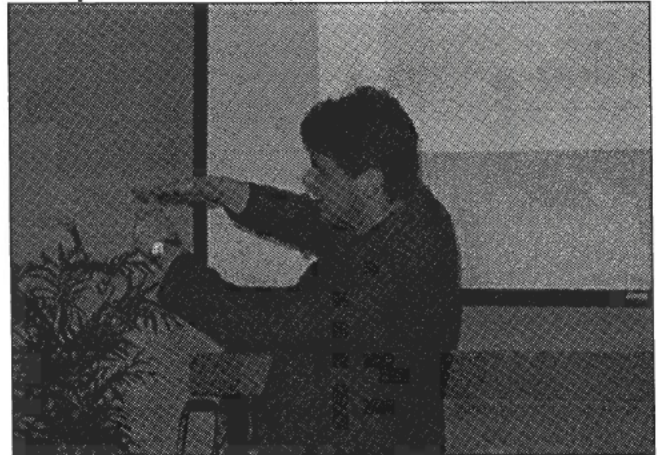
BHS member Joyce Wright in authentic pioneer costume ... almost.

February 21 featured a presentation by Robert Saunders on Heritage Legislation Ontario



Robert Saunders, President of Community Heritage Ontario laid down the law for us. His article appears in this issue on Page 4.

March 21 - Steve Solski staged a presentation on Brampton's Theatres, Old and New



The City of Brampton's Manager of Theatres took time out to make a presentation on Brampton's theatre venues.

On April 18 Dorothy Duncan Former Executive Director of the Ontario Historical Society entertained informatively with an overview of "200 Years of Eating and Drinking in Ontario". She served up historic slides and delicious delicacies. Here is the recipe for the audience's favourite:

Nice Cookies that will keep good three months

(From the Cook Not Mad published in Kingston 1831)

9 cups flour (preferably stone ground whole wheat)

3½ cups butter

5 cups sugar

Large cup of water with a heaping teaspoonful of pearlash* dissolved in it.

1 large spoonful of caraway

*Substitute baking soda for pearlash

UP AND COMING EVENTS

May 16 "The Avro Arrow Story" with **Claude Sherwood**, Project Director of Avro Arrow Replica. Claude Sherwood, P.Eng. (Ret.) is a former Avro employee and now a volunteer at the Toronto Aerospace Museum. He will present an informative talk on the CF-105 Arrow and its full-size Replica nearing completion at the Museum.

June 15 Walking Tour of Historic Meadowvale Village led by **Jimmy Holmes**, unofficial mayor of Meadowvale. Meadowvale became Ontario's first heritage village in the late 1980's. The buildings were restored through grants and loans available to homeowners at the time. The original settlement started in 1831 with two sawmills and a carding mill. By 1880 the village was composed mainly of modest wood buildings with the exception of some grander buildings including Charles Gooderham's mansion.

September 14 Walking Tour of Brampton Cemetery Tour guide **Paul Webster**, Manager of Brampton Cemeteries escorts us through the Brampton Cemetery that dates back to 1863 - the resting place of many famous and not-so-famous past Brampton residents.

September 19 Show and Tell (back by popular demand) with Brampton Historical Society presenters. You never know what you will see and hear. Come out and strut your stuff.

September 21 and 22 Doors Open Brampton

October 17 "From Cumberland To Ontario: Brampton's Early Settlers" with **Rowena Cooper**, Researcher. A BHS founding member talks about Brampton's founders.

November 21 "150th Anniversary of the Brampton Fall Fair with BHS member **Merle Middlebrook**, bound to be a blue ribbon event.

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BHS Meetings - the third Thursday of the month, from January to May and September to November, 7:15 p.m. Heart Lake Presbyterian Church, 25 Ruth St., Brampton
Wheelchair-accessible; Free to members; others: \$5

HISTORIC PRESERVATION IN ONTARIO

Robert Saunders

Community Heritage Ontario President

Many people think that we do not have any buildings or properties of historic or architectural interest in this province. Certainly we do not have in Canada a visible heritage as old as may be seen in many other parts of the world such as Versailles or even the old houses so common in villages. Although in the US there has been consciousness of the historic importance of buildings like Independence Hall in Philadelphia or places such as Civil War battlefield sites since the events in those places occurred.

It is not possible to find much of our oldest building in Canada because the native peoples - except for those on the Pacific coast - used wood for their structures and were nomadic. Archaeologists can find our oldest structures, but they are not part of our visible heritage.

Interest in heritage in Canada and North America is a relatively recent phenomenon. In Ontario, there was interest in the unique; for example, the Temple of the Children of Peace in Sharon, a building lovingly preserved and maintained for many years by the York Pioneers and Historical Society, and now by an independent society; or of the Barnum House west of Grafton, a lovely Georgian classic house. As well, many local historical societies looked for historic buildings in which to house a community museum.

Several restoration projects were undertaken to provide employment during the 1930's depression: projects like Fort York in Toronto, Fort George in Niagara-On-The-Lake and Fort Henry in Kingston. This reflected an American example. In the 1920's and '30's there was a lot of interest in the US, primarily from patriotic groups, in restoring and promoting great national sites such as colonial Williamsburg.

Often these restorations were what people at the time thought they should have been, not necessarily what they were historically. For example, the Fort York restoration of the blockhouses as squared log structures - picturesque, yes, but the blockhouses were originally covered with siding, as is now their appearance. It is also much more weatherproof!

With this activity, came increased interest in architectural and historic preservation. Architectural Conservancy of Ontario was established in 1933, with the leadership of people like Professor Eric Arthur of the University of Toronto School of Architecture. Except for these initiatives there was remarkably little interest by governments until well after the Second World War. The federal government established the Historic Sites and Monuments Board only in 1953.

Ontario passed its first heritage legislation shortly after but its intent was similar to the federal statute: to identify possible sites of interest and to protect archaeological sites.

Nothing really happened until the 1960's. Perhaps the stimulus was a combination of events. In 1965, the US Congress adopted legislation to protect both the natural and built heritage, and environment. The movements to protect heritage have moved remarkably in parallel. The concern for built heritage became international, with UNESCO sponsoring conferences on historic preservation.

Interest in Canada mounted during the '60's, perhaps a result of books such as Alan Gowan's *Looking at Architecture in Canada* (1958), Marion McRae and Anthony Adamson's *The Ancestral Roof* (1963), Eric Arthur's *Toronto: No Mean City* (1964) and *New Life in Old Houses* by Mary Jukes (1966). Books on local architecture in Niagara and in Kingston were also published in the '60's. The 1967 Centennial celebrations certainly revived interest in our history.

The economic expansion of the '60's also resulted in the threat to or the loss of some major heritage buildings. The fight to save Gastown in Vancouver or the E.J. Lennox old City Hall in Toronto roused a lot of people. Most places in Ontario have examples of buildings lost or threatened in these years and community reactions and battles to save them.

Concern over the lack of protection for heritage in Canada compared to the United States and European countries led to mounting pressure for legislative action. Quebec acted first: the provincial legislature passed a heritage protection act in 1963, one of less heralded elements of the Quiet Revolution to strengthen the identity of Quebecers. Other provinces slowly did the same. It was not until 1974 that Ontario introduced comprehensive legislation to deal with more than archaeological sites.

Constitutionally, the prime responsibility for protection of the visible cultural heritage rests with the provinces. This power is rooted in the British North America Act, now the Canada Act 1867, where provinces were given responsibility for property and civil rights under Section 93. The federal government is still in the picture, however, simply because it is the biggest property owner in the country. Think of all those Post Offices! And Customs Buildings and many others, of course.

Federal jurisdiction has prevented local action on many other types of building such as active railway stations. But in 1988 the federal government was embarrassed into passing legislation to give some protection to railway stations. Station buildings on abandoned lines

may be dealt with through local council and heritage committee action.

All provinces, except Ontario, now have legislation allowing for the absolute protection of heritage buildings, whether publicly or privately owned, generally through provincial government action.

The 1975 Ontario Heritage Act was built on the assumption that responsibility for the identification of heritage properties rests with a local community. Other provinces have at least given themselves the statutory power to identify and protect properties. Ontario, through the Minister, has the power to protect property - only for archaeological sites - but has never used this authority.

The Ontario Heritage Act established the Ontario Heritage Foundation to give municipal councils the authority to set up local architectural conservation advisory committees (LACAC's) and to designate properties of architectural or historic interest or to create heritage conservation districts. The LACAC advises council on these issues. A municipality may also make easement agreements with property owners to conserve property. The Ontario Heritage Foundation has authority to: hold and manage property; enter into agreements with owners as easements on the title to conserve the character of the property identified in the agreement; in other specified matters to promote heritage awareness.

Conservation of a property involves four steps. The identification of the architectural or historic value - these are the words used in the Ontario Heritage Act - of a property is the first. Second, there has to be some protection for that property from demolition or alteration. Third, the interpretation and explanation of the value of the property for the benefit of the community - education - is needed as a celebration of the heritage value to the community and as part of the protection. Fourth, for many buildings, a use or a reuse/adaptation must be found. The iron law of heritage conservation is "Use it or lose it".

In identifying properties of historic interest, a committee reviews the important historical themes and developments in its community and spots the sites reflective of these developments. Considerations are agriculture, local businesses, railway development, transportation, industries, and people who have contributed to the community and where they lived. Every local historical group has a vision of the background of their community and what is important to be passed to subsequent generations as the history and character of their locale.

The Committee builds an inventory of the potentially important resources that need recognition and

protection. To recommend designation, the inventory is first reviewed with a system of evaluation. Some of the criteria for deciding that a property is important will be locally based on the historic themes identified or on the architectural value of a building or a site, landscaped gardens for example. A first rate set of criteria put out by Parks Canada was used in its inventory twenty years ago. Reasonable and objective criteria will avoid the appearance of caprice.

Property is worthy of recognition and a measure of protection is recommended by a LACAC to the council to be designated under the Ontario Heritage Act or, if the owner is willing, that the municipality enter into an easement agreement. Designation is done through a municipal by-law. The reasons for its identification are set out in a statement of reasons for the designation that becomes part of the by-law. This statement has to be carefully written because it sets out those elements of the property that are important and require protection.

Some protection is conferred on the property. The elements identified in the statement of reasons cannot be changed without the permission of the council, which may well rely on the recommendation of the LACAC to deal with this kind of issue. But the protection is limited. Demolition or alteration of a designated building requires the council to allow it through the normal building permit or demolition permit process. If the council does not consent, there is a "cooling off" period of 180 days to explore possibilities and alternatives before the owner can act. After the 180 days, an owner can do what he or she wants. In addition, some 14 municipalities have additional time given under private legislation - applicable only to them - and have the right to refuse a demolition permit until a site plan and building permit have been granted for the site.

Designation does not impose on the owner the obligation to maintain or care for the property beyond public safety requirements. That is why it is not uncommon to see heritage buildings boarded up and padlocked. Note that designation is for a piece of property. Typically there is a building on the property and this is the reason for designation. However, a building or structure is an improvement on the property. A structure is not necessary: a piece of property may be designated for its historic significance. LACAC's have designated cemeteries, areas of land with historic associations or historically significant landscapes or historic trees.

Many municipalities have a policy that no property will be designated without the agreement of the owner. Why should the municipality care if the owner is not prepared to protect the integrity of the property?

Others have decided not to designate properties unless there is a threat to them. The LACAC's are expected to have inventories of architecturally or historically interesting ones: if one on the list is threatened, the LACAC and council may act by giving notice of intent to designate. This freezes action for thirty days plus, when the by-law passes, another 180 days. Designation is used as a procedural road bump to protect property.

If a LACAC and a council want to preserve a property, an agreement is made with the owner that becomes an easement on the property registered to the title. This is an option that should be explored with an owner. The terms of the agreement identify the important elements of the property that should be preserved. The agreement may be in perpetuity or for a fixed term. An easement agreement may be made with either the OHF or the municipality.

A municipality interested in protecting a neighbourhood or stabilising an area to protect its character should look seriously at Part V of the Act, Heritage Conservation Districts. There is no neat definition of a heritage conservation district in the Act: it simply says that a council may define an area and designate it as a District, such as Brampton's designation of the community of Churchville.

Creating a District is essentially an official plan amendment. The official plan has to provide that such districts may be established and the criteria for identifying and setting them aside. The criteria for a "heritage" area should relate to the concept of heritage - the properties in the area should have some historic or architectural interest, including the landscape or streetscape aspect. There ideally should be some unity to the area. The description of the elements of importance and the reasons is very important. The advantage to a municipality is the degree of stabilisation for an area, not merely preservation. In many residential neighbourhoods of cities, towns and villages this is desirable to maintain the character of the community.

In addition to looking to the Ontario Heritage Act for preservation of heritage properties, we should look to the Planning Act and to zoning regulation. This is what is done for heritage conservation districts. The Heritage Act may be useful for identifying and giving status through designation to properties. LACAC's may even create an inventory of heritage buildings noting why they have been listed. But heritage policies and the zoning provisions in a municipality's official plan give the best protection.

There is also a new tool in that municipalities may give a tax break to heritage properties which are designated where the owners enter into an agreement

with the municipality "respecting the preservation and maintenance of the property." The Municipal Act was amended last December to permit this. This measure is valuable for municipalities trying to preserve their old downtown areas in providing incentives for businesses to stay or locate in those areas and create attractive streetscapes.

The Ontario Heritage Act is by no means a perfect instrument for protection of heritage properties. In comparison to other provinces and states in the U.S., our legislation is rather weak. The most glaring difference, to me, is that the province has never given itself legislative power to protect properties of provincial heritage significance. In Canada, among the provinces, only Ontario has not done this.

Many critics want more protection for structures against demolition and maintenance requirements to prevent demolition by neglect. The basic issue is the degree of interference with the property rights of the owner. The Act does allow for expropriation of a significant property where the municipality is prepared to do this. But the province is not prepared to allow municipal councils to restrict property rights for absolute protection of heritage properties. Indeed, the most recent private member's bill would have allowed compensation to owners if their rights were restricted.

Finally, let me talk about the preservation of properties of interest. There are recognised principles for owners and contractors to employ in deciding on restorations and renovations. Suggestions by the Ontario Ministry responsible for heritage are based on international protocols.

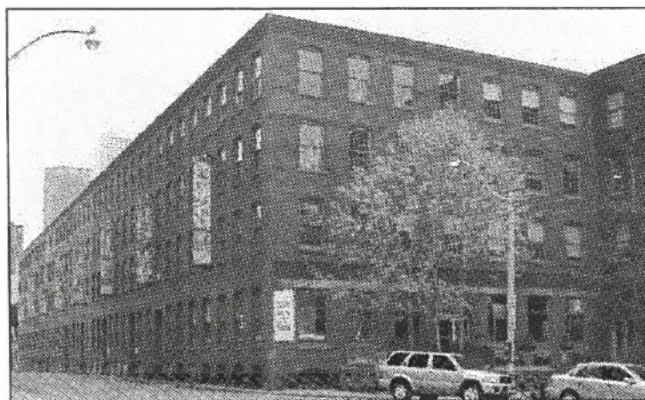
- respect for documentary evidence, pictures descriptions etc. of the property at a point in time
- respect for original location
- respect for historic material, repairing or conserving rather than replacing except where necessary
- respect for original fabric repairing with like materials
- respect for the building's history - do not restore a building to a period at the expense of another period
- reversibility of alterations
- legibility so that new work is distinguishable
- maintenance so that major conservation (and costly) conservation projects may be avoided

Conservation of old buildings is a challenge. Knowledge of style is important: renovations may harm the heritage value. Knowledge of construction techniques is important so repairs will help preserve the building. A common problem with brick restoration in 19th

century buildings is that hard bricks or concrete-based mortar are used: these will slowly destroy the old softer brick and lime mortar around them as moisture and frost do their work. Window replacement is a common issue. Owners often need expert advice and help.

The basic issue is the criteria used to identify properties of historic or architectural value. We can find grand houses and commercial buildings. Parkwood in Oshawa is a marvellous house designed by the well-known firm of Darling and Pearson during World War I for the McLaughlin family. The building and interiors have been well preserved. The Toronto Dominion Centre is a stunning complex designed by the internationally known Mies van der Rohe, many of its interiors and furnishings still intact. But what do you do with workers' homes, a gothic styled Regency cottage very common in towns across western Ontario or the ubiquitous, rough log houses of many early settlers? Or the 1936 Bauhaus design house awarded architectural awards for an affordable and high quality home of the time. Or a factory such as those of the former farm implement manufacturers in Brantford?

Let us not fall into the fallacy that only monumental architecture is important, that only big buildings count. There are attractive or interesting small buildings: houses, railway stations, banks, shops and small-scale office and factory buildings. I said "attractive or interesting" because a lot of buildings have character and interest even if they are not particularly attractive. Craftsmanship and building techniques and character do matter. A number of undistinguished buildings do have historic interest because of how they were used or who lived in them.



The former can manufacturing plant at 401 Richmond St. West in Toronto now houses arts and technology-related businesses. This view, looking east from Spadina Avenue, shows truck-docking entrances on the roadside.

In many places in the US, community foundations buy up, renovate and resell old houses, preserving them while maintaining a cash flow to purchase others. It is a scheme worth considering, where a residential

community of old buildings is deteriorating. But it is not an approach popular with affordable housing advocates unless they become a part of the process and target the re-sales or rentals to that market.

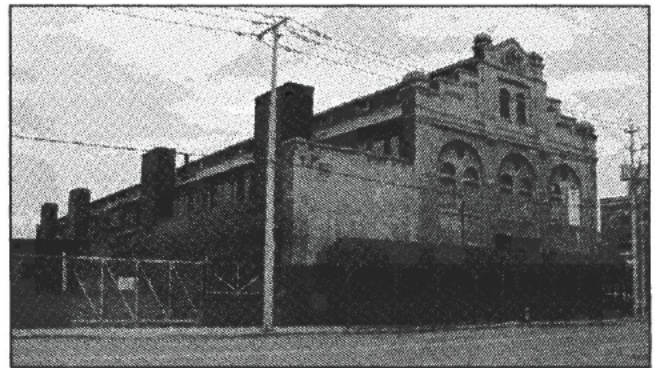
Alas, it is not possible to take into public hands all the attractive and important old buildings that may fall out of use. You cannot have a museum in every building at risk. One of the preservationists' dilemmas and big jobs is finding uses and reuses.

If buildings are to be conserved and saved, they have to be used in some way. With residential properties, this is normally a non-issue because people buy old houses to live in and to enjoy their character. They want to maintain them and do things that maintain their value. With factory, commercial and institutional buildings, or houses sitting in commercially zoned areas, this is not always the case. To save these is often a matter of finding some use for the building. There are ingenious reuses. In many cities, old warehouses have been converted to loft apartments. Arts-related industries have been quick to see the possibilities of open and spacious buildings with character.



The Canadian Opera Company site on Adelaide Street.

There are a lot of interesting reuses in Toronto. 401 Richmond Street West, a not very distinguished building (a former can manufacturing plant) is now a centre for a number of arts and technology related businesses. It is a commercial success. One former Consumers' Gas building on Front Street in Toronto is home to the Canadian Opera Company — it has large open space inside. Another derelict building is to be converted to a police station with the exterior and some interior features preserved. But the owners of the Concourse Building, another major art deco office building on Adelaide Street, with decorations done by J.E.H. MacDonald in the entrance and interior, as well as on the sides of the building below the roof, will commit themselves only to preserving the facade of the building. This controversy erupted into the newspapers two years ago.



The future site of 51 Division of the Toronto Police force.

Possibilities for private owners include bed and breakfasts and restaurants, common in Ontario.

There are many built forms and structures worth preserving that are not obviously buildings. Snake fences of cedar rails and drywall fences, a Bailey Bridge over part of the Rouge River, lighthouses on the Great Lakes, landscape designed gardens, 19th century farm buildings on a working farm and their designed layout.

In closing, if there is to be real protection for heritage resources, it may depend more on economics than on preservation law. Demolition by neglect is a reality in many communities. Commercial property owners look at the economics of a building in making their decisions. Residential property owners may need help to look after their old buildings that are costly to maintain.

Finally, if you are concerned about the state of our heritage laws and the need for economic incentives for preservation, talk to your MPP's and MP's about personal and corporate income taxes structured to give heritage conservation incentives and direct grant assistance. Associations can write letters and speak to ministers - but the real pressure for change comes from the grassroots, with face to face contact where you want reaction and feedback from your representative.



The Concourse Building on Adelaide Street in Toronto with an example of the elaborate stonework shown (inset).

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Historic Bovaird House

"Brampton in Bloom" Garden Tour and Plant Sale with Mossie's Tea Room. Sunday June 9.

"Jazz in the Gazebo" with The Jazz Mechanics. Bring the family, a picnic basket, blanket, sandwiches and lemonade, and enjoy a picnic in our park. Sun. Aug. 11.

"Doors Open Brampton" features Historic Bovaird House as one of the venues. September 21 & 22.

563 Bovaird Drive, Brampton

Info: 905-874-2804 and www.bovairdhouse.ca.

Email: bovairdhouse@hotmail.com

Halton - Peel Branch, Ontario Genealogical Society

Telling Your Life Story Using Exciting Technology
Speaker: Dr. Mary Ellen Beatty, Sun. June 2, 2:00 p.m.
Chinguacousy Branch - Brampton Public Library
150 Central Park Drive, Brampton

**Cemetery Recording Day, Continuation of the
Trafalgar Lawn Cemetery, Oakville** June 23, 9:00
a.m. No Rain Date. The cemetery is on the north side
of Hwy.#5 (Dundas Street) just west of Neyagawa
Blvd., at the 16 Mile Creek in Oakville. Bring clipboard,
pencil, lunch, etc. Cold drinks and timbits provided.
Info: call **Dorothy Kew**, 905-631-9060

Friends of the Schoolhouse

Visit the Schoolhouse

On the 2nd Sunday of every month the Old Britannia
Schoolhouse will be open from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Info: 905-459-9158 and on the internet at
www.britanniaschoolhouse.org

150th Anniversary Celebration of The Schoolhouse
Family fun in the schoolhouse and schoolyard.

Admission free, but donations to cover expenses are
appreciated. Saturday May 25, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Strawberry Social in the Atrium of the H.J.A. Brown
Education Centre. Admission \$5.

Tuesday June 25, 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Continued from page 2

It was a great opportunity to renew old acquaintances and meet new friends. BHS President, Peter Murphy, official Town Crier, was in truly fine form entertaining the crowds while summoning all within hearing distance (ten city blocks!) to join the festivities at the Complex. BHS member, Steve Collie, also drawing many a second look, was resplendent in his authentic 1812 military uniform. All in all a great day!

Brampton Arts Council

15th Annual Mayor's Luncheon For The Arts
presented by the Brampton Arts Council; Tickets \$80
Wednesday June 5 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Holiday Inn Select, 30 Peel Centre Drive, Brampton
905-874-2919 or email mayorslunch@artsbrampton.ca

Esquesing Historical Society

Lime Kiln Restoration - Mary Shier of the Limehouse
Kiln Society will speak about the group's plans to
preserve a crumbling piece of local history.

Wednesday May 8 at 7:30 p.m.

Limehouse Memorial Hall, Limehouse

St. Joseph's, Acton - 145 years of Catholic worship.
On March 18, 1857 work began on building the St.
Joseph's Church, Dublin - the first centre for Catholics
in Esquesing. A potluck dinner followed by a tour of
the Church and a discussion of the history of the
parish.

Wed. June 12; Dinner at 6:00 p.m., tour at 7:15 p.m.

Info: www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/ehs/home.html

Streetsville Historical Society

Streetsville Founders Bread and Honey Festival
May 31 to June 2

Golden Jubilee Tea Party

June 2 1:00 - 3:30 p.m. (ticketed event)

Candlelight Walk

Friday May 31 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Friday August 23, 8:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

Tours start at Red Hill Art Glass, 271 Queen St. S.

Info: 905-816-1640; www.breadandhoney.com

Walking Tours of Historic Streetsville

Saturday June 22, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Sunday July 14, 1:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Milton Historical Society

www.hhpl.on.ca/sigs/mhs/index.htm

Etobicoke Historical Society

www.etobicokehistorical.org

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It has just occurred to me that the opening meteorological metaphor may be inappropriate in that some may infer that we will wither and die in the fall! That is simply not the case but I don't have time to change anything as Buffy is pestering me to finish this column forthwith.

Ed's note: Congrats, Peter on being the winner in this issue's "first to submit" contest! Hear ye, hear ye, editors have the final word.



Kee Notes From Fred

By Fred Kee

Westervelts Corners: "No. 10"

In my days at No. 10, Arthur Poskitt, his wife and son Jack lived in the house that Mr. and Mrs. Cation owned. In 1945 Poskitts had a bad fire and moved to Huttonville. Frank Leader bought their property and rebuilt their house.

Next to the Bovaird homestead on 10 Sideroad, Harry Cannons purchased a lot from the Poyntz farm and built a small cement block garage where he and his wife lived, while he made his own cement blocks and built a larger two-bay garage with an apartment above. They had three of a family, sons Harry and Robert and a daughter "Kate". As of now his wife Hilda still lives in the apartment and Robert (Benny) rents the garage, as he is an auto mechanic, as was his father.

In the late thirties and early forties four more lots were sold off the Poyntz farm. Ernie Wright, Fred Merritt, William and Fanny Sanger (Bovaird) and Pete Farmer all built houses on 10 Sideroad. The Poyntz farm changed owners in 1920 from Arthur Poyntz to his nephew, Robert Poyntz to W.E. Todd. In about 1942 it went to Mrs. Mulner until it was developed in the seventies.

Now, in 1960 M.O.T. purchased the Bovaird homestead as well as the home of Dr. Bovaird and the adjoining two properties that fronted on Highway 10.

Dr. Bovaird then purchased three acres on Bovaird drive, east of the existing lots and built two homes. One for himself and one for his son Bob, as well as a barn for his ponies.

The Bovaird family was honoured in 1972 with the renaming of 10 Sideroad to Bovaird Drive.

As of writing this history in 2001 since Dr. Bovaird passed away, his wife and youngest daughter, son Bob and family and sister Fanny Sanger still reside on Bovaird Drive. The next history shall tell of the major change to Lot 10 and 9 on the east side of Hurontario Street in the last 150 years.



The rails near Westervelts Corners, ca. 1949.

Photo courtesy of the Peel Heritage Complex Archives

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